

THE NUR AFSHAN

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Editorial Notes.

We have pleasure in giving the following intimation to the readers of the *Nur Afshan* :—

"The PUNAB RELIGIOUS BOOK SOCIETY is about to celebrate the Coronation in double fashion.

The first part of their Monthly Magazine, *Taragqi*, (published for general distribution) will be enlarged from 8 to 16 pages without extra cost to subscribers. It will contain a description of the coronation ceremony and a Life of the King and Queen, with portraits of their majesties, pictures of Westminster Abbey, the Coronation Chair, &c. as well as notes and an article. Extra copies of this part of *Taragqi* for distribution may be had at 6 annas a dozen, postage free, from the Manager *Taragqi*, Lahore.

The monthly handbill for June will also deal specially with the Coronation. Very many of our readers use these tracts and find them helpful. If any desire extra copies of the number entitled *Toiposhi*, they can get them by application to the Society on payment of postage. The circulation of the handbills, which now stands at 40,000 is steadily increasing and the number printed will soon have to be increased. Contributions to the cost of postage, and printing will be thankfully received by the Assistant Secretary.

The Secretary of the I. S. S. U. for the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh desires us to intimate that "all correspondence regarding the next all India S. S. examination from schools or individuals in the U. Provinces should be addressed to T. Blake Esq, 6 Bank St. Allahabad.

The Period of the Coronation of Edward VII. promises a revival of letters, especially of poetry. In reply to an offer of an 'Empire-wide competition' prize made by "Good Words" there have been received 1,047 Odes in honor of the occasion.

These poems have come from 33 different countries. Dividing them by continents they are distributed as follows: Europe 630; Asia, 40 of which 33 come from India; Africa 17; America 156; Australasia 182.

The prizes will be announced in the "Good words" of June 20.

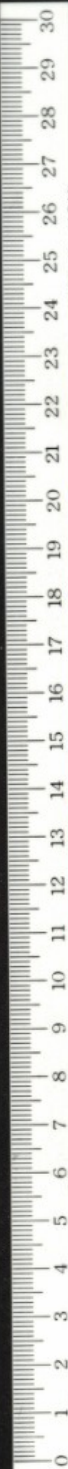
The *Arya Messenger* asks for the chapter and verse showing that Adam had daughters as well as sons. The passage is found in Genesis v: 4, where we find a general statement as to Adam's posterity after the birth of Seth. Adam begat "sons and daughters." The same statement is made in regard to other patriarchs, the children of Adam.

Our contention is that this was the natural course of things from the beginning. Adam and Eve begat sons and daughters. Hence the posterity, so numerous in the days after

Cain killed Able as to make him plead with God thus: "My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, thou has driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me. **** and the Lord set a mark on Cain lest any man should kill him."

The *Messenger* should be sure of his facts before he counts them. The whole narrative as given here by Moses relates to Adam and his posterity. The presumption is on the side of the Christian interpretation and all the incidents point to the fact that Cain married in the Adamic connection. The burden of proof lies with the objector, whose "facts" when sifted prove to be mere assumptions.

We are exceedingly glad to see that some of our educated young men agree with us in deprecating the use of *Havan* as a microbe destroyer. It is not enough to plead for the smoking incense that "it purifies the air." The question is, Does it destroy the plague germ? The experiences of the last year has been that it has not accomplished any good in preventing the plague. Whatever ideas a few *Arya* reformers may wish to import into *havan* from the scientific side, they must know that the mass of the people observe the rite as a mere superstition. It is on a par with the burning torches and huge crosses and the sprinkling of



holy water by Roman Catholic priests during the great Plague in England. Such practices, not only do no good but they do infinite harm, by turning the attention of the people away from the proffered help of scientific appliances and the use of proper means for permanently improving the sanitary condition of our cities and towns.

The people of Amritsar have spent Rs. 16000 in performing of *havan*. The people of Ludhiana spent thousands in the same way, but they had to fly away for refuge elsewhere. Their money might have been spent in a better way. It makes one sad to see men of culture urging these useless impliments of superstition, when they might by their example inaugurate modern methods that would save many lives.

The plague in Australasia make slow progress but the number of deaths is only 28 in the hundred cases. Here it is over 50, and in some places it is 80. Why this difference? Is it not because of proper care of the sick? Caste and superstition seem to be responsible for half the deaths by plague in India.

Article.

PLANTED BY THE RIVERS.

"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water," Ps. I: 3-5.

A more forcible illustration of prosperity and adversity could hardly be adduced than that of the relative condition of two trees, one of which is planted in a desert place and the other by the channels of water. The former, during the wet season, may flourish and give some signs of vigorous growth and even enkindle a hope that it may bear fruit. But, when the windows of heaven are closed and the King of Day sends down his fiery rays, and the ground becomes parched, the pretentious growth soon begins to show signs of decay. The leaves in their beauty become dried and shrivelled ready to crumble into dust, the branches are wrinkled, the trunks become dry and dead; and finally the roots, which had clung to life as long as they could suck a little mois-

ture from the hot earth in which they had hid themselves, yield to the demands of want and lie dead in their beds. The summer passes; the rain falls abundantly, giving new life to every green herb, and clothing nature once more in her beautiful garments, but that tree remains dry and shrivelled. It is dead.

But, how different is the condition of the tree besides or in the midst of the channels of water. The burning sun has beaten upon it in vain. True its leaves do at times droop beneath the sun's mighty heat, as if humbly making obeisance to their passing monarch, but when he has passed beyond the tops of the hills, they raise their heads again and unfold their beauty to the admiring throngs. They stretch forth their boughs in cordial invitation to nature's songsters and, vocal with the melody of birds, offers shelter and comfort to man and beast. The delicate embryo is gradually expanded; the blossom is put forth; and the green fruit is in due season developed and matured. All gaze upon it in deepest admiration and inwardly ejaculate, How beautiful, How good! Whence this contrast? Why is this tree green, beautiful and fruitful, whilst the other is dead and barren? This tree has been planted by the channels or rivers of water. The sun did threaten to parch her leaves, to shrivel her limbs, and to destroy her, but she stood by the rivers of water. When she was hot, the vapor from the rivers cooled her;—when she was thirsty, the rivers of water gave her drink. Thus it is that she has continued in her beauty, that her leaf has not withered, and that she has brought forth her fruit in her season.

Such is the illustration, by which the Holy Ghost signifies the blessing of the righteous man; or the truly happy man. "He is like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." He may live in the midst of earthly adversity and famine, but he will be prospered. True the Heavenly Gardener may lop off many of his branches, and take away much from him that made him look beautiful and prosperous in the eyes of men; yet he shall not wither, he will yet yield his fruit, his work will yet be prospered. "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall he shall not be utterly cast down, for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand." So David could confidently add these remarkable words: "I have been young and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor

his seed begging bread." The wicked may be suffering in want, and shrivelling from thirst: yet God supplieth the wants of his people through the channel of his Providence. Their roots have struck deep into the ground of God's promises and are watered from the channels of His Benevolence. The Righteous may live in the midst of spiritual dearth and famine, yet his soul shall not suffer destruction nor cast her fruit. The sinner may scorn the infidel may cavil, the flood-gates of iniquity may burst asunder and send her turbid waves over his soul; yea, the powers of Satan may set themselves to overcome and destroy his soul, but still he shall stand forth in renewed beauty, and yield his fruits. His enemies may cut off all external sources of spiritual life, yet God's Spirit will supply the want, for he is planted by the rivers of living water, which of a man drink he shall never die;—yea a stream fresh from the fountain head Jesus Christ—flows into his soul.

To be continued.

Current Thought & Incident.

SOME EXTRAORDINARY SEISMIC FACTS.

The terrible catastrophe in the West Indies forms one more addition to the already formidable list of disasters due to the convulsions of nature within the earth. With most of the more prominent, history has made us acquainted, but there is a number of minor seismic disturbances which have either been forgotten entirely or are buried in musty old chronicles. From one of these ancient volumes are taken the following extracts of interest at the present moment.

Barge, we learn, was a seat in Norway, near Frederickstadt, which in 1702 sunk into an abyss one hundred fathoms deep which instantly became a lake. Fourteen persons and 240 head of cattle were drowned. More than half a century later, at Brixton in Norfolk, in June 1788, the ground sunk to a depth of nearly 50 feet. In May 1810, an island of the Danube, called Engel, near Pichment, began one day to float and moved a distance of eight miles. On Saturday evening, the 17th February 1571, Marby Hill, near Hertford, began to move, bearing with it the trees, hedges, cattle, &c. on its surface. It continued in motion till the following Monday, overthrowing a chapel on its way, and leaving, where it formerly stood a chasm forty feet deep and thirty long. A similar prodigy happened in Dorsetshire in

1583, when a field of three acres at Blackmoor, with trees and fences, moved over another field and settled in the highway to Hearn. In 1773 the river Bever in Gloucestershire suddenly altered its course, removing while doing so ten acres of land with everything on its surface. In the year 1179 the earth, at Oxenhall, near Darlington, suddenly rose up in the form of a very steep and lofty hill and remained thus several hours until with a horrible noise it suddenly fell in, leaving a deep chasm.

Thirty-one great eruptions of Etna have occurred. In an eruption in 1693 the city of Catania was overturned in a moment and 18,000 persons perished in the ruins.

A new island, called Carrao, was thrown up by a submarine volcano in July 1831, in the disturbed Isles of Sicily. It was preceded by local earthquakes and terrific noises many days before. It was in lat. 37° 11. and east lon. 12° 44. The sulphurous smell was suffocating, and the vapour and ashes ascended 1 000 feet, with lightning. In parts it was 200 or 300 feet high and about two miles in circumference. The substance was various kinds of ashes but no lava or pumice stone. It has since utterly disappeared.

From April to July 1815, Tomboro, in Sumbana, continued in violent eruption. Explosions were heard 980 and 780 miles distant in opposite directions, and only 26 out of 12,000 inhabitants survived. The ashes darkened the air for 300 miles around. The series of shocks which destroyed Lisbon on Nov. 1 1755, had far reaching effects, the English lakes being affected; Brisfol hot-wells became red, a well in King's wood became black, and the river Avon flowed back whilst rising. The houses which were engulfed at Port Royal in 1692 were distinctly visible in 1780 to persons who passed over them in boats. In March 1812, 12 000 persons were killed by an earthquake in the city of Caracass only. A remarkable volcanic explosion took place, January 20th to 25th, at Cosiguina in Nicaragua. A total darkness took place in Leon and showers of lava covered the country and through Granada the darkness lasted 40 hours. There were also successive earthquakes and two islands were formed of pumice and mineral earth. Some farms were destroyed, a vessel was sunk and the crew of another was involved in ashes 50 miles from Aca-pucia and others over a space of 50 miles. The reports were heard and ashes fell at Kingston, Jamaica, 800 miles distant. In 1687, the sea retired from the shores of Peru and

returned in mountainous waves which destroyed everything on the coast; among other places Callao. In 1746 the same phenomenon again took place and only 200 out of 5,000 inhabitants of Callao saved themselves; nineteen vessels were sunk and four including a frigate were carried over Callao miles into the country.

In Syria there have been no volcanoes since the formation of the Dead Sea, but history records 100 earthquakes at Aleppo, Damascus, Antioch, &c. By the earthquake of 526, twenty-five thousand persons perished in Antioch; and in the ancient Berytus all its inhabitants were destroyed. In 1822 Aleppo was overthrown in six seconds and 30,000 persons perished.

On the 13th September 1777, a volcano broke out in the isle of Ferro which threw out an immense quantity of blood-red water which discoloured the sea for many miles, and Bosia, a village at Piedmont near Turin, on the 8th April 1693 suddenly sunk like a ship at sea with 200 of its inhabitants, and in February 1793 a piece of land in Finland 4,000 square ells in extent sunk suddenly 15 fathoms into the earth, whilst on the 8th July 1657 a hill at Bulkeley, near Chester, sunk so deep that the tops of the lofty trees growing on it were not visible.

Civil and Military Gazette.

The Missing Five Cents.

Holding out his hand for the change, John's employer said: "Well, my boy, did you get what I sent you for?"

"Yes, sir," said John; "and here is the change, but I don't understand it. The lemons cost twenty-eight cents, and there ought to be twenty-two change, and there's only seventeen according to my count."

"Perhaps I made a mistake in giving you the money?"

"No, sir; I counted it over in the hall, to be sure it was all right."

"Then perhaps the clerk made a mistake in giving you the change?"

But John shook his head. "No, sir; I counted that, too. Father said we must always count our change before leaving a store."

"Then how in the world do you account for the missing five cents? How do you expect me to believe such a queer story as that?"

John's cheeks grew red, but his voice was firm. "I don't account for it, sir; I can't. All I know is that it is so."

"Well, it is worth a good deal in this world to be sure of that. How do you account for that five-cent piece that is hidden inside your coat sleeve?"

John looked down quickly, and caught the gleaming bit with a cry of pleasure "Here you are! Now it is all right. I couldn't imagine what had become of that five-cent piece. I was certain I had it when I started from the store to return."

"There are two or three things that I know now," Mr. Brown said, with a satisfied air. "I know you have been taught to count your money in coming and going, and to tell the exact truth, whether it sounds well or not—two important things for an errand boy. I think I'll try you, young man, without looking farther."

At this John's cheeks grew redder than ever. He looked down and up, and finally he said, in a low voice: "I think I ought to tell you that I wanted the place so badly I almost made up my mind to say nothing about the change if you didn't ask me."

"Exactly," said Mr. Brown; "and if you would have done it, you would have lost the situation, that's all. I need a boy about me who can be honest over so small a sum as five cents, whether he is asked questions or not."—Pansy.

The Medical Use of Onions.

The sweet Italian or the Bermuda onions are the ones to be eaten are natural, the flavor being much more delicate than the common varieties. But onions are really sweeteners of the breath after the local effects have passed away, as they correct stomach disorders and carry off the accumulated poisons of the system. They provide a blood purifier that all may freely use, and do perfect work in constipation troubles. As a vermifuge the onion cannot be surpassed, and eaten raw, will often check a violent cold in the head. One small onion eaten every night before retiring is a well-known doctor's prescription for numerous affections of the head, and is highly recommended for sleeplessness; it acts on the nerves in a soothing way, without the injurious effects of the drugs so often applied. The heart of an onion, heated and placed in the ear, will often relieve the agony of earache, while the syrup procured from sprinkling a sliced onion with sugar and baking in the oven, is said to work wonders in a "croupy" child.

Telegrams.

London, June 1.

In a despatch dated Pretoria, 31st May, Lord Kitchener says:—"The document containing the terms of surrender has been signed this evening by all the Boer representatives and Lord Milner and myself."

The signing of peace has been received with the utmost enthusiasm. The Lord Mayor announced the news from the Mansion House where a large crowd collected instantaneously. Cheering crowds are parading the streets and bells are ringing.

The words "Peace is proclaimed" in red letters on a white ground were displayed on the Mansion House to-day between 5 and 6. Being Sunday the news spread slowly compared with the news of the relief of Mafeking. The news was announced in many churches in the suburbs. It rained heavily during the day, but the weather cleared in the evening. Uproarious jubilating crowds assembled at the chief centers, the Mansion House and Piccadilly circus with flags, trumpets and whistles. The scenes of Mafeking night were repeated. In many cases the illuminations prepared for the coronation were lit. Crowds with improvised band increasing (sic) made a regular pandemonium.

London, May 31.

President Steyn has a stroke of paralysis and altogether abstained from the conference at Vereeniging. He gave his parole and has gone to Krugersdorp.

London, May 31.

Lord Rosebery, speaking at Leeds, said that we are not concluding peace with a crushed foe, and must endeavour to convert brave foes into brave friends. This must be done on liberal principles, not on the lines sketched by Lord Salisbury when he said a resolute Government might be required for generations.

London, May 31.

Mr. Roosevelt, in a speech yesterday, said that the cruelties which took place in the Philippines, which were committed under provocation, given by a treacherous enemy, deserved condemnation less than lynching in the United States.

A speech made by President Roosevelt at Arlington hinting at the ultimate possibility of the independence of the Philippines when the islands have shown capacity for self-government has created a sensation in America.

London, May 31.

The agreement delimiting the boundary between British Soudan and Abyssinia has been signed.

Calcutta, June 2.

It is reported that an accumulator has been invented and perfected by Edison which will solve the motor problem for the use of airships and long distance travelling on land and sea.

London, June 2.

The King, in an address to the people, said that he had received the welcome news of the cessation of hostilities with infinite satisfaction. He trusts that peace will be speedily followed by restoration of prosperity.

In the House of Commons Mr. Balfour read a statement of the terms of peace. The burghers in the field are to lay down their arms and surrender all guns, rifles and ammunition, and obey the authority of the King, whom they must acknowledge their lord and sovereign.

The burghers outside South Africa, on declaring acceptance of these conditions, to be brought back as soon as transport and means of subsistence can be provided.

Those accepting the conditions will not be deprived of their liberty or property.

The Taal will be taught in the public schools if parents desire, and also used in courts of law where circumstances render it necessary.

Three millions will be placed at the disposal of Commissioners to restock farms.

Notes of hand issued by the late Government and British officers will be recognised.

Lord Kitchener says that Lord Milner read to the delegates a statement that the treatment of the Cape and Natal rebels will be determined by the views of the Colonial Governments, the Cape holding that the rank and file, on acknowledging guilt and surrendering, should be disfranchised for life, and that Commandants be tried for high treason, and the punishment left to the court, with the proviso that death sentences will not be inflicted. Natal adds that the rebels will be treated according to the laws of the colony.

Civil administration will be established in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony at the earliest possible date.

Circumstances will determine when representative institutions leading to self-government can be introduced.

London, June 3.

The King has received congratulations from everywhere in the world, including most cordial telegrams from the German and Austrian Emperors.

The Lords meet specially to-morrow. A message from the King to Parliament is being expected.

Their Majesties are going to St. Paul's on Sunday morning for special thanksgiving for peace.

Mr. Balfour will move a vote of thanks to the Army by Thursday.

It is expected that Lord Kitchener will be granted a substantial sum.

Allahabad, June 4.

A special cable to the *Pioneer*, dated London 3rd June, says:—

Lord Roberts, dining with the Northampton Yeomanry on Monday, said that the country ought to be grateful to Lord Kitchener and the British army for the work done in South Africa. Lord Kitchener had accomplished a task which no other man could have accomplished.

News of the peace is taken very quietly in London. Popular sentiment is in consonance with the sobriety of the King's message. Enthusiasm is reserved for the coronation.

Malan was anxious to surrender with his commando, but was overawed by Fouché, who disowned De Wet's instructions to attend the conference. Fouché declares that he will never submit.

Madras, June 3.

The position of the Boer prisoners on the Nilgiris remains unchanged pending receipt of orders from Simla.

London, June 2.

The King and Queen will attend the Coronation reception at the India Office on the 4th July, at which the Indian princes and representatives of the Indian army attending the Coronation will be present.

London, June 4.

The King on the 1st telegraphed congratulations on the peace to Lord Milner and Lord Kitchener, who telegraphed thanks.

The conditions include permission to hold rifles under a license for personal protection, and no special tax on landed property to defray war expenses.

The balloting at Vereeniging on peace was 54 for and 6 against.

London, June 4.

Lord Kitchener is promoted to General and created a Viscount.

A message from the King asks Parliament to vote £50,000 to Lord Kitchener for his eminent services.

Schalk Burger and Botha in an open letter to the burghers, after referring to their courage in the field, urges them to co-operate in the advancement of the country and loyally obey the new Government.

Allahabad, June 5.

A special cable to the *Pioneer*, dated London, 4th June, says:—

The Vereeniging delegates will now return to their commandos in order to arrange for the surrender of the burghers in the field, and for the delivery of rifles and ammunition. Until this is accomplished there will be no breaking up of columns or withdrawal of blockhouse guards.

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